WHIRRAKEE

August 2010 Vol. 31 No. 7

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2009 - 2010

President	Jan Orr	5443 5668
Senior Vice President	*position vacant*	
Junior Vice President	Matthew Comer	0409 162627
Secretary	Anne Bridley	5442 6188
Minute Secretary	Glenise Moors/Rod Orr	54396254
Treasurer	Rob Moors	54396254
Membership Officer	Anne Bridley	5442 6188
Excursion organiser	*position vacant*	
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan	
Librarian	Diana Collier (an assistant is still required)	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	0409 162 627
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis (assisted by Rob Moors)	0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with a 10 minute thing-of-the night natural history segment. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Bob Ruddick, Ben Goonan, Liz Graham, Glenise Moors, Joy Clusker, plus *one position vacant*

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one sub-group (the Fauna Study Group) and is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5449 3479 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 31, No. 7, August 2010

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Short notices		3
July Observations	Ben Goonan	3
Urban Roos	Susan Treloar	4
July GDT excursion	Joy Clusker	5
In defence of common names	Aaron Hall	8
Last Hoorah for VEAC? Remnant Vegetation Discussion Paper	Anne Bridley	9
Speaker syllabus for 2010 general meetings	Ben Goonan	10

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
Apart from enjoying the budding wattles and increasing daylight hours, there are two extra things to think about this month. The first one is the renewal of your membership and the second one is nominating somebody or be nominated for a position on the club's committee. The renewal notice will be sent out separately to you, but the nomination form should be in your hand. Go on, give it a try! We have another four-page colour edition this month. With spring coming up, I hope to receive many more photos for the magazine. If you have a good one, why not enter it also in the competition described on the back page under 'Kooyoora Wildflower Show'?

Front Cover: Photographer: Susan Treloar
The student and staff community at La Trobe University in Bendigo is extremely fortunate to have regular visitors from nearby bushland. It is not only the international students that are delighted by the kangaroos that visit every day and are so relaxed in this scholarly atmosphere. They do make themselves vulnerable though, so here is hoping that they do not fall victim to abuse or get run over when crossing a road. Some more 'urban roos' can be seen on page 4.

Short Notices

August General Meeting Preview
An eminent speaker this month, Associate Professor Ian Lunt from Charles Sturt University, will talk about "Our changing forests and woodlands". Bring all your friends and relations! You can come early and help with some weeding in our garden.. (see below)

Next Garden Working Bee
will take place on

Saturday August 7th at 1pm.
Note: new time

The focus will be on taming the winter weeds. Some parts of the garden are in need of some extra attention at the moment, so there will also be short weeding sessions beginning at 5pm before both the general meeting on the 11th and the committee meeting on the 18th for around an hour or so for anyone who wishes to come along.

All are more than welcome

Committee members needed
As a consequence of Richard and Gemma's departure to the outback, there are now two vacancies on the committee. Can you help?

Excursion
Saturday, August 14th
Jane Cleary will lead this excursion to the Black Rock/Kamarooka area of the Greater Bendigo National Park. All day, bring BYO lunch and gear suitable for a day in the bush.
Depart: BFNC clubrooms, Old High St Golden Square. Departing 9:30 am.
Main focus: botany and birds.

More honey possums (from Bill Holsworth)
Last year I ordered about 20 copies of **"A Tale of Two Honey Possums"** for members of the Club. There were a few who did not contact me in time and missed out on getting excellent Christmas presents for their grandchildren. I do not intend to order more this year by if members are interested, the author, Felicity Brandshaw, tells me that copies are still available. She can be contacted one email: felicity@honeypossum.com.au. Her website is www.honeypossum.com.au.

July Observations recorded by Ben Goonan
Ian Magee
The Grey-headed Flying-foxes (vulnerable in Victoria and Nationally) have been seen in the Wellsford and Break-o-day Hill Forest areas (and others). This (and other sightings) should be officially recorded so this species can be included when defining the values/significance of these areas. There are historical records of the species in the region, one from 1949 in the Wellsford forest (Stewart Fraser) and others from the 1800's, unknown location.

Anne Bridley (on behalf of Ian Fenselau)
Black-eared Cuckoo seen and heard calling in thick scrub near Inglewood. Anne noted that this species is not commonly seen in the region and has not been recorded for the last few years. Date 10 or 11/07/10

Elaine Doling
Elaine's neighbour recently cut down a large Ironbark that was cracking house foundations. While this was happening Lorikeets (unspecified) were feeding in the tree. Elaine also talked briefly about registering significant trees in order to afford them some protection.

Jane Cleary
After some years trying to grow Quandong sp. from purchased plants, none of which have survived, a seed planted under a Gold-dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*) has now germinated. The seed was untreated and buried close to the surface of the soil.

Observations continued on page 8…

More Urban Roos (continued from front cover photograph
These were spotted on the 21st July at 9am Photographer: Susan Treloar

...and these on 1st of July

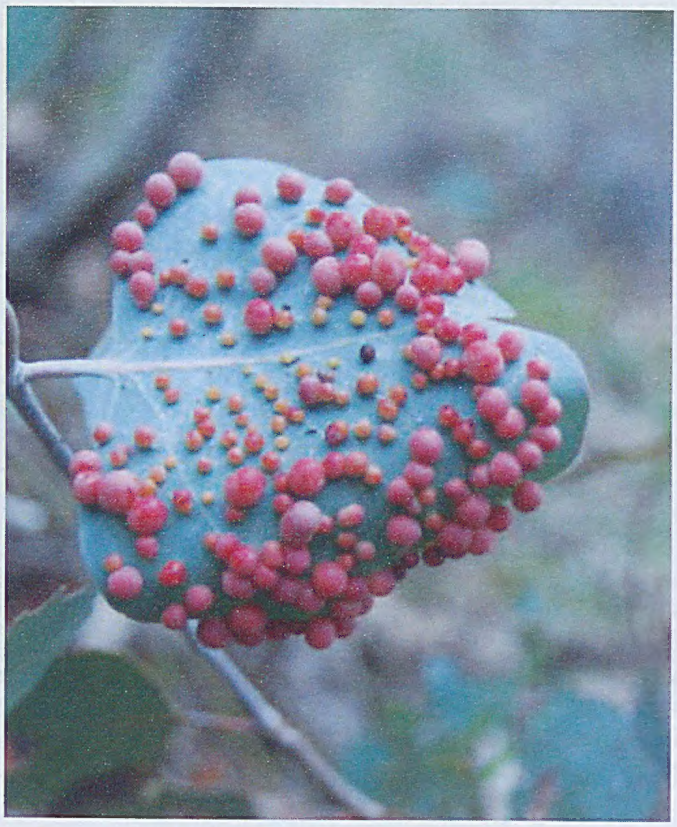
Great Dividing Trail excursion (17th July) Photographer: Joy Clusker

Baeckia ramosissima 'rosy baeckea'…a beautiful spring messenger

Hydnum repandum ' hedgehog fungus' ↑

Lichen - *Cladonia pleurota* ➔
The little cups are the fruiting bodies

Dermocybe cramesia 'red skin-head'



Galls on a eucalypt leaf

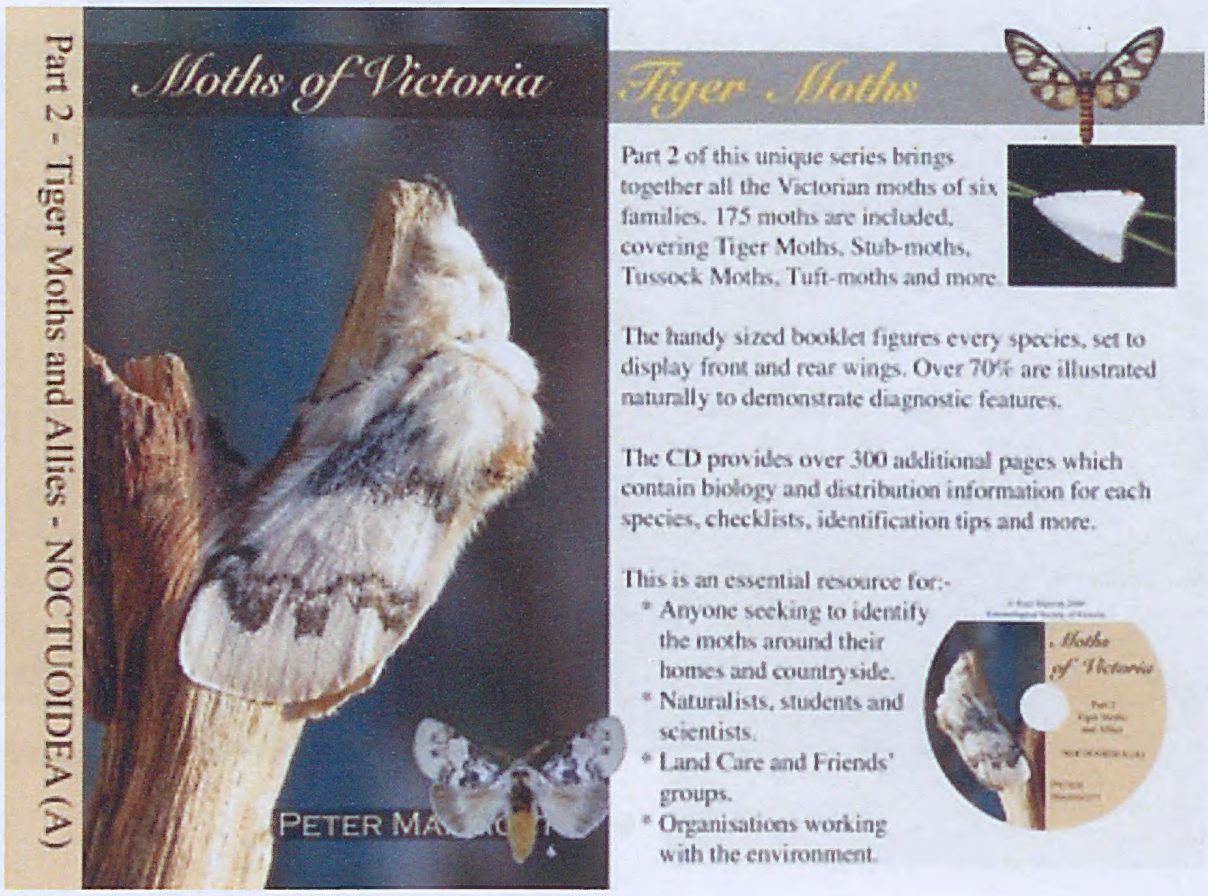
Hexagonia vesparia

Several of these large clumps of Ghost Fungus were growing around the base of a very large and apparently healthy Manna Gums on Mt Alexander on June 3. Several warning signs alerted visitors to the danger of falling limbs and collapsing trees so they are not as healthy and stable as they look!

Omphalotus nidiformis Photographer: Rod Orr

Moths of Victoria

Another reminder of this excellent series of 'Moths of Victoria', the author of which (Peter Marriot) spoke to the club in May. Two volumes are available (12 dollars each plus postage) through the Entomological Society (at http://www.entsocvic.org.au/)



Observations...continued

John Burtonclay
Two Black-backed Magpies observed in the car park area of the Strathdale Community Hall. Date 14/07/10

Glenise Moors
Flame Robin numbers are down on the project site this year. Only two banded males have been observed. One of them, "Stumpy", has returned for several years since he lost his foot. This year he showed he could cling to the curved side of a boulder to feed down onto the ground. Two banded "brown birds" have also been returning each year and would appear to be females. One has a noticeable orange flush to her throat. A Peregrine Falcon swooped through and frightened another small group of robins, which were being scoped to check for bands.

Matthew Comer
Wedge-tailed Eagles observed in the Baynton area while undertaking revegetation work on private property. The landholder told Matt that he had observed as many as 21 eagles together in the past and that there was a nest tree in the area. Matt recorded up to 8 eagles together.

Glenise Moors
Six White-fronted Chats on the hill at the Flame Robin site. 24/06/10
After the Fungi photos were published in *Whirrakee,* Glenise was inspired to go looking around the bush on their property. Glenise reported three colours of Coral species, two species of Puffballs, Earth Stars and one that was convoluted, mushy and buff coloured. There were many other common fungi but she couldn't identify them.

Joy Clusker
Mount Alexander 12/07/10
Geoglossum sp. (Earth Tongues) black coloured, *Poronia erici* (Dung Buttons), *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* aqua coloured, *Entoloma moongum* black with white gills.

...and an additional observation from Glenise Moors recorded after the general meeting...
On the 26th of July, I noticed a female Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodnovii*) collecting small twigs from the ground and flying into the crook of a Grey Box sapling to build a nest – about 5 metres up. This is the first time I have found this species nesting in Sedgwick. Ten years ago they were rarely seen. In recent years, these lovely little birds have been observed more regularly, but in very low numbers.

In defence of common names

by Aaron Hall

I wish to present an alternative view to the standardisation of common names for our wildlife. Common names of our wildlife are part of the rich linguistic culture that we have and should not be shunned or homogenised. To say that it is more practical to have a single accepted list of common names may be true, but the same argument is often used by bigoted people, who insist that all languages other than English should be abolished in Australia. I believe it is indeed enriching to have languages other than English used in our community, and the same goes for other common names of our wildlife. *Viva la difference*. However practical linguistic homogenisation is for our society, I believe we are all diminished by it.
Scientific names are quite another matter. They are not part of our rich linguistic diversity, but are used by scientists for scientific purposes. Common names are different. By definition, they are the names that our wildlife are commonly known by in our community, and the scientific community should leave them alone. I believe that to say that the use of different common names in different regions and generations causes confusion, is overstating the case. I personally find it interesting, not confusing. I believe inclusiveness is important if we are to heighten the general communities involvement in our natural heritage, and shunning the use of other people's version of common names does not help.
Here is an example:
In Pizzey's "A field guide to the birds of Australia" 1980, the birds have a listing for "other names". Some have none, most have 2 or 3, I noticed one with 7. One of the more

unusual ones is the "banded goatsucker" for the "owlet-nightjar". While that one is an interesting oddity, most are not. For example as there are wrens in other parts of the world, we aren't to call the "superb fairy wren" the "superb blue wren" any more, even though we grew up with the name, and most people know it as the "superb blue wren". Michael Morcombe's current "Field guide to Australian birds" does not have a listing for "other names" at all. The concerted move to standardise names comes from the "Birds Australia" official list of which readers of *Wirrakee* will be familiar.

Does anybody want to comment on this? Please do, it is always good to have some discussions about such topics.....(ed)

Last Hoorah for VEAC? Remnant Vegetation Discussion Paper

By Anne Bridley

The VEAC Remnant Native Vegetation Discussion Paper is now available for comment until Mon 30 August. The club has two copies of the report. The purpose of this paper is to provide information to build a clear picture of remnant native vegetation as a basis for identifying prioritities and actions for conservation. The State Government proposes to abolish VEAC as a separate body.

Key findings for the Goldfields Region are:

largely intact landscape - nil
fragmented landscape - 100%

Native vegetation extent - 53.7%
On public land - 23.6%
Conservation Reserves - 8.9%
other public land - 14.7%
On private land - 30.1%

Not native vegetation 46.3%

The condition of the native vegetation is higher on public than private land, but the condition of both is worse than that of other moderately cleared bioregions.

Areas of native vegetation that is both highly connected and of good site condition are not extensive. They occur near Fryers Ridge, Castelmaine, St Arnaud Range and south-west of Rushworth.

The report also notes that the first assessment of the Victorian Governments Native Vegetation Framework Net Gain policy found that around 4600 Ha of native vegetation are being lost annually in Victoria.

As we all know, the most effective method of conserving native vegetation is not to clear it in the first place.

Appeal for help with Kennington Reservoir history project

Bill and Carol Holsworth are currently compiling a history of Kennington Reservoir and are requesting help with any items that could contribute to this project. 'Kenny Res' is the oldest Reservoir in the region, which is still being used for its original purpose.

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club – Speaker Syllabus for the reminder of 2010

DATE	PRESENTER	TITLE
11/08/10	Associate Professor Ian Lunt, Charles Sturt University	"Our changing forests and woodlands"
8/09/10	Keith Stockwell, Echuca and district branch of the Bird Observers Club Australia	"Native Birds of Bendigo and surrounding areas"
13/10/10	Rodger Elliot AM, Author and Horticulturalist	"The 35-year Journey, Australian Plants A – Z"
10/11/10	Neil Macfarlane, Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group Inc.	"The Malleefowl Recovery Project"
8/12/10	Rod Orr, Bendigo Field Naturalists Club	"The Canning Stock Route: Plants"

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club – Excursion Program for 2010

August: **Leader:** Jane Cleary. **Date:** Sat. August 14
Location: The Black Rock/Kamarooka area of the Greater Bendigo National Park. All day, bring BYO lunch and gear suitable for a day in the bush.
Depart: BFNC clubrooms, Old High St Golden Square. Departing 9:30 am.
Main focus: botany and birds.

September: **Leader:** Anne Bridley. **Date:** Sat. September 11.
Location: Great Dividing Trail Flora & Fauna Survey, Sandhurst Reservoir area.
We will be continuing the survey near Sandhurst Reservoir. We will be meeting AT THE CORNER OF PHYLLIS ST & THE CALDER HWY KANGAROO FLAT at 8:45 am to go up to Sandhurst Reservoir. This is a half day excursion, and we will be back by 12:30pm.
Bring: binoculars, notebook, camera, morning tea, cold weather & rain gear.
Contact: Anne Bridley ph 5442 6188.

October: **Leader:** John Lindner. **Date:** Sunday October 24
Location: Coliban Main Water Channel and associated bushland
Bring: Morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Backpack, carry your own supplies, camera, magnifying glass and binoculars.
Length: You can come for the morning or stay all day.
Subject: Wild flowers, including many orchids, and birds. In addition a 3km walk along the channel brings you to some interesting 19th century structures that are part of Bendigo's old water system

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, August 11 7.30pm
Associate Professor Ian Lunt from Charles Sturt University, will talk about "Our changing forests and woodlands".

Excursions

Sat. August 14
Jane Cleary will lead an excursion to the Black Rock/Kamarooka area of the Greater Bendigo National Park. All day, bring BYO lunch and gear suitable for a day in the bush.
Depart: BFNC clubrooms, Old High St Golden Square. Departing 9:30 am.
Main focus: botany and birds.

For other excursions planned this eaer, see page 10.

Fauna Group

This group normally meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. New and seasoned Club members are most welcome to attend.

Next Garden Working Bee

Saturday August 7th at 1pm.
See page 3 for details

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

Australian Naturalists' Network – Advance Notice

Sixth ANN Get-together
24 August - 4 September 2010
Host: Chinchilla FNC, Qld
Further enquiries: Kath Truscott, email: ann2010@bordernet.com.au

SEANA Spring Camp 2010

Foster North, South Gippsland
Friday 15 - Monday 18 October 2010
Registration & deposit due by 16 July 2010
Contact: Wendy Savage ph. 5634 2246, email wsavage@dcsi.net.au or Phil Rayment ph. 5174 1730, email philrayment@dcsi.net.au

Kooyoora Wildflower Show

Sat & Sun 18 - 19 September
Rheola Hall 9:30 - 4 pm daily.

Photographic Competition

Subjects: landscape, native flora & fauna,
Photo Location: Loddon Shire
Winner to be announced at the Kooyoora Wildflower Show. Entries close Sunday 12th September 2010.
Contact: Rob Scholes, 0427 190 339 email cvosrr@iinet.net.au
Entry forms at www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Naturally Loddon - a wonderland in Spring

4 Sep - 3 Oct. A month of environmental events in the Loddon Shire.
Includes:
Sat 4 & Sun 5 working bee at Bush Heritage Property near Wychitella.
Fri 24 Sep: biolinking Australia, on ground action with Greenhouse Balance
Sun 26: Northern United Forestry Group
Wed 29 Sep: Leaghur SP with Paul Haw
Thurs 30 Sep: Boort wetlands with Paul Haw
Contact: Loddon Visitor Information Centre, 5494 3489
www.loddon.vic.gov.au